

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9880

UNCLAS PORT AU PRINCE 1235

PASS AID/FDRC

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: DROUGHT IN HAITI: REQUEST FOR DISASTER RELIEF FOOD SHIPMENTS

1. CONFIRMING DOUGLASS/MCCLURE TELCON THIS DATE, GOVERNMENT OF HAITI OFFICIALS HAVE DECLARED CONTINUING DROUGHT IN NORTHWEST SECTION OF COUNTRY A MAJOR DISASTER AND HAVE REQUESTED USG ASSISTNACE TO PROVIDE MINIMUM NUTRITIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO SOME 350,000 PERSONS FOR 5-MONTH PERIOD. ALTHOUGH NOT YET DECLARED DISASTER AREAS, THE NORTH PLAIN AND ISLAND OF LA GONAVE ARE IN THE SAME CONDITION.

2. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES FROM AFFECTED AREA HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY EMBASSY VOLAGS AND FIELD REPORTS FROM REPRESENTATIVES OF VOLAGS, AID AND EMBASSY PERSONNEL CONFIRM EMERGENCY NATURE OF SITUATION.

3. I HAVE DETERMINED THAT DIASTER EXISTS AND HAVE AUTHORIZED UTILIZATION OF A PORTION OF TITLE II FOODS PRESENTLY IN COUNTRY TO MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS OF POPULATION IN MOST BADLY STRICKEN AREA. THIS AREA INCLUDES APPROXIMATELY 150,000 INHABITANTS IN SECION HAITI NORMALLY COVERED BY HACHO. I HAVE ALSO INDICATED TO GOH OFFICIALS MY INTENTION TO REQUEST AID/W APPROVAL TO FURNISH ADDITIONAL FOOD SUPPLIES SUFFICIENT TO FEED 80 PERCENT

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OF THOSE AFFECTED OR 120,000 PERSONS, FOR PERIOD OF THREE MONTHS.

A PLAN FOR DISTRIBUTION OF THESE FOODS HAS BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN GOH DISASTER RELIEF OFFICIALS, EMBASSY AND VOLUNTARY AGENCY PERSONNEL.

4. BASED ON RATION OF 1/2 POUND OF GRAIN AND SMALL AMOUNT OIL PER PERSON PER DAY, QUANTITIES OF ADDITIONAL FOODS NEEDED FOR THREE MONTH PERIOD ARE ESTIMATED AT 2000 TONS OF GRAIN (BULGAR PREFERRED) AND 210 TONS VEGETABLE OIL, PLUS REPLACEMENT OF AMOUNTS OF IN-COUNTRY STOCKS USED PENDING ARRIVAL FIRST SHIPMENT, ESTIMATED AT 600 TONS.

5. IN ADDITION TO FOOD SUPPLIES, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING ON EMERGENCY BASIS 20 TONS CORN SEED, (FLINT TYPE, PIONEER OR HYBRID), 20 TONS MILLET SEED (TYPE NK-222) AND 10 TONS BLACK-EYED PEAS. SEED IS REQUIRED IN HAITI BY JUNE 15 SO PLANTING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BEFORE END OF SEASON. WE UNDERSTAND UNDP HAS ALSO BEEN APPROACHED FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING SEED SO WILL COORDINATE OUR ACTIVITIES WITH THAT OFFICE.

6. IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT CONTROL AND DISTRIBUTION OF FOODS WILL BE THROUGH NORMAL CARE/HACHO CHANNELS, SUPPLEMENTED AS NECESSARY WITH PERSONNEL FROM OTHER VOLAGS, HAITIAN RED CROSS, AND COMMUNITY COUNCILS. GOH HAS INDICATED THAT THEY WILL PROVIDE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, I.E. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS, WAREHOUSE SPACE, TRUCKS, BOATS, FUEL, SECURITY PERSONNEL, WORKERS, ETC., TO ASSURE EFFECTIVE DISTRIBUTION OF THESE SUPPLIES.

7. ACTIONS REQUESTED: REQUEST AID/W APPROVAL OF PROGRAM OUTLINED PARA 4 ABOVE TO PERMIT GRANTING OF ABOVE ASSISTANCE TO GOH. ALSO REQUEST AUTHORIZATION TO EXERCISE 25,000 DOLLARS AUTHORITY AGAINST AID CONTINGENCY FUND TO COVER ANY COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

8. IN ADDITION ALSO REQUEST THAT WE BE AUTHORIZED TO ARRANGE FOR UTILIZATION UP TO 600 TONS FLOUR FROM LOCAL FLOUR MILL WITH EVENTUAL REPLACEMENT WITH TITLE II FLOUR OR WHEAT. THIS AUTHORITY WOULD ONLY REPEAT ONLY BE USED IF THERE ARE INTERRUPTIONS IN DELIVERY SUPPLIES OF BULGUR.

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9. IN ADDITION TO FOOD SUPPLIES, AID MISSION REQUIRES PERSONNEL SUPPORT IN FORM OF A FOOD-FOR-PEACE OFFICER FAMILIAR WITH TITLE II PROCEDURES. SERVICES ARE REQUIRED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR A PERIOD OF FROM 3-6 MONTHS.

10. IF REQUEST IS APPROVED, A FIRST SHIPMENT OF 600 TONS OF BULGUR AND 70 TONS OIL IS REQUIRED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. GOODS SHOULD BE CONSIGNED TO CARE AT PORT OF GONAIVES IF POSSIBLE. THIS PORT

HAS DOCK WHICH CAN HANDLE SHIPS UP TO 25-FOOT DRAFT. SUBSEQUENT SHIPMENTS OF 700 TONS GRAIN PLUS 70 TONS OIL SHOULD BE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT 3-WEEK INTERVALS. RECEIPT OF LARGER SHIPMENTS NOT FEASIBLE DUE TO LIMITED WAREHOUSE CAPACITY. IF DELIVERY DIRECT GO TO GONAIVES ON EXPEDITED BASIS NOT POSSIBLE SHIPMENT OF ENTIRE REQUIREMENTS COULD BE MADE TO PORT AU PRINCE.

11. PLANS OF GOH TO EXTEND RELIEF PROGRAM TO REMAINDER OF NORTHWEST AND OTHER AFFECTED AREAS ARE NOT KNOWN AT THIS TIME, ALTHOUGH GOH HAS REQUESTED AND BEEN GIVEN INFORMATION ON CCC SALES. POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT ADDITIONAL USG ASSISTANCE MAY BE REQUESTED AT SOME FUTURE DATE.
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